

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, November 16, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

Department Of War, November 16, 1821.

Sir, I have received your letters of the 17th and 20th September, the first containing a copy of an unauthorized talk held with the Indians in Florida by a Mr. Dexter and Mr. Wanton, the latter a copy of a talk held with them by yourself and of a letter written by you to Genl. McIntosh.¹

¹ John McIntosh of Georgia (1755–1826).

The views which you have taken in relation to the Indians generally, and particularly of those in Florida, appear very correct. I entirely concur with you that it is perfectly absurd to hold treaties with those within our limits, as they neither are or can be independent of our government. This opinion has been frequently communicated to Congress, and altho' they have not yet adopted it, I still hope that they will ultimately.² By its adoption both ours and their interest would be advanced, and all of the objections, which may be urged against almost every Indian treaty which has been made, be thereby avoided. As it regards the Indians in Florida, I can entertain no doubt, but that it would be expedient to remove them entirely out of the limits of Florida, for the reasons which you have assigned, and such also is the opinion of the President; but he is of opinion that it would be improper for that purpose, without the sanction of Congress and a special appropriation, to resort to force or to incur any considerable expenditure. Should there appear to be any prospect at the next session to effect so desirable an object, it will be brought before Congress. If,

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however, nothing better can be done than to concentrate them in Florida, the point which you propose appears to me to be the most eligible. . . .

2 In 1871 Congress enacted that no more treaties should be made with Indian tribes.